

A

NARRATIVE

OF THE

SHIPWRECK

OF THE

235

Nottingham Galley, &c.

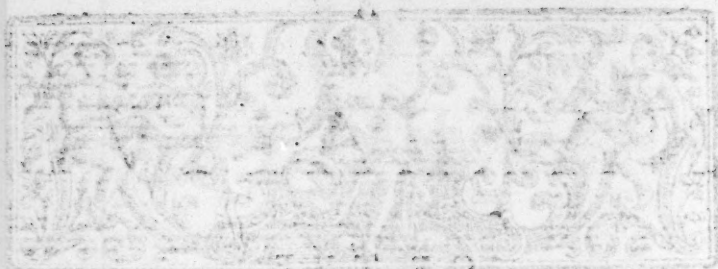
PUBLISHED in 1711.

Revis'd, and Re-printed with
Additions in 1726,

BY

JOHN DEANE,

COMMANDER.

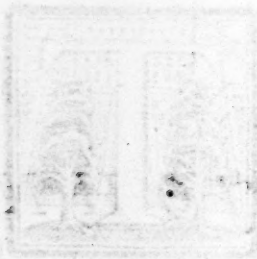


SHIPWRECK NARRATIVE



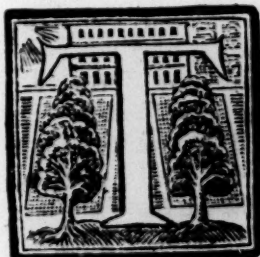
Youngman, C. C.

The shipwreck of the ship "Youngman" on the coast of the island of St. John, in the month of June, 1854, is a most interesting and valuable addition to the history of the island. The ship was a small vessel, and the crew was small, but the wreck was discovered by the natives, and the remains of the ship were preserved. The ship was a small vessel, and the crew was small, but the wreck was discovered by the natives, and the remains of the ship were preserved. The ship was a small vessel, and the crew was small, but the wreck was discovered by the natives, and the remains of the ship were preserved.





A
NARRATIVE
OF THE
SHIPWRECK
OF THE
Nottingham Galley, &c.



THE *Nottingham Galley*, off, and from *London*, 120 Tons, 10 Guns, and 14 Men, having taken in part of her Loading in *England*, and part in *Ireland*, sail'd, on a Trading Voyage, for *Boston* in *New-England* the 25th of *September*, 1710; but meeting with contrary Winds and bad Weather, they discried not the Land of *New England*, then cover'd with Snow, 'till the 11th of *December* following;

following; and then, in a Quarter of an Hour, lost sight of it again by the Fogs and hazey Weather, that had prevented their taking an Observation for 10 or 12 Days before; which, with the unaccountable Currents here met with, they could not, with certainty, determine what Part of the Coast they had seen: however, the Wind being N. E. and the Land lying N. E. and S. W. they concluded it both Safe and Adviseable to steer S. W. 'till 10 a Clock at Night, and then lie by 'till the Morning, with the Head of their Vessel off from the Land. As it blew hard, accompanied with Rain and Snow, they carried but little sail; and about 8 or 9 at Night, the Mate being slightly indisposed, the Master, upon Deck, going forward, saw, to his infinite surprize, the Breakers a-head very near them; and instantly calling out to the Steersman, to put the Helm hard a Starboard, was so ill obey'd in the sudden Astonishment, as to have the very reverse perform'd; tho', had it been otherwise, they were too near to avoid the impending Danger; so the Ship struck, with great Violence, against a Rock call'd *Boone Island*, about 7 Leagues *Eastward* from the Mouth of *Piscataqua River*. The Night was so dark that they could discern no Land; and the Sea running very high, soon heav'd the Vessel along side of the Rock, where, still continuing to make a free Passage over them, and the Ship therewith excessively labouring, they could no longer keep the Decks; and therefore the Master calling down all Hands, spent a few Minutes in the Cabbin in earnestly supplicating Mercy; and then, exhorting one and all to use their utmost Efforts to cut the Masts by the Board, he re-ascended the Deck with such as had Presence of Mind to assist him, and cutting the weathermost Shrouds, the Fury of the Winds and Seas, with the violent Agitation of the Ship, soon broke the Masts, and they fortunately fell right towards the Rock.

As they could only perceive something black a-head, without being certain whether Land or Rock, the Master perswaded the Mate, and two others, all good Swimmers, to quit the Wreck, and make the first Essay to recover Land, in Order to give Intelligence of the best Place

Place of Landing for the rest of the Ship's Company, if Providence should favour their Escape.

At this Juncture, the Master went down into the Cabin to secure some Money and Papers that might be of Service, in Case he sav'd his Life; and having first furnish'd himself with a Flint, Steel, and a little Gun-powder, just as he open'd the Box, wherein the Money and Papers lay, the Ship bulging, her Stern sunk into deeper Water, and with much Difficulty he regain'd the Fore-part of the Vessel, where hearing nothing from the first Adventurers, he concluded them lost; however, being under a Necessity of making the like Attempt, he threw off his Cloaths to his Waist-coat, and without either Wig or Cap, cast himself, with all his Might, from the Wreck, seconding the Motion of the Sea towards the Rock; and lighting unexpectedly on the Fore-mast and Rigging that lay in the Water, he mov'd gradually forward betwixt every Sea, 'till he touch'd the Rock with his Foot; and yet the Mast proving too short, and the Rock exceeding slippery, he was oblig'd once more to commit himself to the Mercy of that Element, which heav'd him with such Violence against the craggy Point of the Rock, as bruised his Body, and tore his Hands miserably; and, upon the Recess of the Wave, he was carried off again into the Sea: By this Time his Strength was near exhausted, and he had taken in much Water, yet preserving the Use of his Reason, and being, upon the next Elevation of the Sea, tost upon a more eminent Part of the Rock, and catching hold thereof with such impetuous Force, as tore off the Flesh and Nails of his Fingers, he prevented his being wash'd off again, and crept up into a Place of Security, before the next Revolution of the Sea. After a little Recovery of himself, and some Discharge of Salt-water; the Master gave Assistance to the rest of the People, who, with much less Difficulty, got safe on Shore at a more commodious Place of the Rock. Ascending a little higher, they heard the three Men that first escap'd to Land; and by 10 being assembled together, they, with joyful Hearts, return'd their most humble Thanks to Divine Providence for

for their miraculous Deliverance from so imminent a Danger.

They then sought Shelter, to the Leeward of the Island, from the Extremity of the Cold, Snow, and Rain, but found it a mere Rock, without a Shovel full of Earth, and destitute of the Growth of a single Shrub; besides, so small and inconsiderable, as not to exceed 100 Yards in length, and 50 in Breadth at high Water; and withal so craggy, as not to admit of their Walking to keep themselves Warm. In this disconsolate Condition they spent the first miserable Night.

At Appearance of Day-light the Master went to the Place of the Wreck, proposing to find Provisions, either in the Remainder of the Ship, or in the Concavities of the Rock, but was amazed to see only a few odd Things, with some Plank, Timber, and Canvas, drove on Shore, but nothing eatable, except a few Fragments of Cheese, beaten into uncouth Forms by the violent Dashing of the Sea against the Rock; this, being carefully collected, might amount, in the whole, to the Quantity of three small Cheeses; and, at some Distance, lay the broken Pieces of the Masts and Yards, with some torn Sails and Cordage, all intangled in the Cables, and restrain'd by the Anchors from being driven away, yet kept moving with the Sea, at present out of their Reach.

Fire becoming their next necessary Care, on Account of the Wet and Cold: They sought to procure this Blessing by a Variety of Means, as Flint, Steel, and Gunpowder, and afterwards by a Drill of very swift Motion. but all the Materials in their Possession naturally susceptible of Fire, being, on this Occasion, thoroughly Water soak'd, after 8 or 10 Days unsuccessful Labour, they gave over the fruitless Attempt.

The second Night they stow'd, one upon another, under the Canvas, in the best Manner they could Devise to keep each other warm. And the following Day, the Weather clearing up, and inclining to Frost, the Master, seeing the nearest Part of the Main Land, knew it to be Cape Neddock; and from thence took Occasion of encouraging his People with Hopes of being discover'd by Fishing Shallops, or other Vessels occasionally

onally passing that Way ; altho', all the while, he was conscious to himself, that rarely any Thing of this Kind happen'd at that unseasonable Time of the Year ; however, he thought it good Policy to put the best Face on the Matter, and take this Advantage of their Ignorance and Credulity ; since he already too plainly observ'd their great Dejection, and frequent Relapses into an utter Distrust of Divine Providence.

As, after a Shipwreck, all Discipline and Command ceases, and all are reduc'd to a State of Equality ; so the late Master perceiving some refusing to give Assistance, even when required in necessary Matters, he purposely withdrew from the Society, under Pretence of collecting Materials for future Use, in Order to give them a fair Opportunity of freely electing an Head, or Chief Commander ; but, returning one Evening, he was inform'd by the People, that they had invested him with the same full Powers of issuing all Orders, and Punishing any in Case of Disobedience, as before on board the Ship ; and this they had enforced with the stronger Sanction, in Regard to some Opposition made by the Mate and two others, against the Master's any longer enjoying the Supreme Command. And from this Time forward, the Master exercis'd some Authority ; but not 'till he had consulted the Body, in any Affair of Importance.

It will scarce meet with Credit to report how much the Impression of their Misfortunes had impair'd their Memories in so short a Space of Time, so that they divided in Opinion concerning the number of Days they had been on that unfortunate Island ; the Consequence whereof was, they kept two *Christmas-days* that Year, and two Sundays every Week, 'till Providence sent the Vessel for their Relief. About the 3d, or 4th Day, our Cook, unused to the Hardships of a Sea-faring Life, complain'd of a violent Illness, which appear'd but too visibly in his Countenance ; he was lodg'd with two or three others, the most infirm, and died about Noon : They placed the Corps near Low-water-mark, and the flowing Tide carried it away ; none so much as hinting to reserve it for Sustenance ; tho' several afterwards confess'd, they had Thoughts of appropriating

appropriating it to that Use. They as yet retain'd some Sense of Humanity, being hitherto Strangers to the exquisite Torture of excessive Hunger, they receiving the Cheese divided into equal Shares, about half a Pound a Man each Day, as the casting of Lots decided; so that the Master, who, by working very hard, when the Weather permitted, exhausted his Spirits, and render'd his Appetite more importunate, had not the least Particle more than such as gave no Manner of Assistance; however, he reap'd one Benefit, for maintaining of Warmth by Action, preserv'd a due Circulation of Blood, imparting a benign Influence to his whole System; whereas a severe Frost setting in with Extremity of Cold, so benumb'd and discolour'd the Hands and Feet of the Unactive, as render'd them, in a Manner, Useless and past sense of Feeling, not without Danger of Mortification. And such as had quitted the Wreck with Boots on, had Blisters on their Legs to such a Degree, that the Skin came off, with the Nails of their Toes: All this still aggravated the Master's Care and Toil, who daily dress'd their Ulcers, and Washing them in Urine, or Salt-water, bound them up in clean Rags, supplied from two Pieces of Linnen, amongst other Things, driven on Shore; and, every Evening, they all of them wrapp'd up their Legs in large swathing Bands of Oakum, pick'd and dried for that Purpose.

Their first Enterprize of Moment, was the erecting of a Tent, in a triangular Form, about 8 or 9 Foot in Diameter, cover'd with Sails and old Canvas, and strow'd with pick'd Oakum for Bedding; it was only Capacious enough to receive them all, lying down sideways, so that no Man could turn himself without the general Concurrence. This occasioning some Disputes, was referr'd to the Master's Appointment, who, usually, once in two Hours perform'd it, upon publick Notice given. On the Top of the Tent a Staff was fix'd, on which, as the Weather presented, was hoisted up a Piece of white Cloth, in the Form of a Flag, in View of discovering themselves to any Vessel that accidentally should pass that Way.

The next Undertaking, was the Building of a Boat out of Timber and Plank extracted from the Wreck; having

having for Tools the Blade of a Cutlash, made into a Saw with their Knives, an Hammer, and a Caulking-Mallet: Some Nails they found in the Clefts of the Rock, and others they drew out of the Sheathing: Three Planks were laid flat for the Bottom, and two up each Side, fix'd to Stanchings, and let into the bottom Timbers, with two short Pieces at each End, and one Breadth of new Holland's-Duck round the Vessel, to keep out the Spry of the Sea; they caulk'd her with Oakum, drawn from old Junk; and secur'd the Seames with Canvas, Pump-leather, and Sheet-lead, as far as the Extent of their small Stock would allow; a short Mast was fix'd, with a square Sail; seven Paddles provided for Rowing, and an eight, longer than ordinary, for Steering: All this was accomplish'd whilst their Carpenter, thro' a violent Indisposition, was utterly incapacitated from giving his necessary Assistance, almost his Advice; and the Rest so enfeebled and dispirited, that only the Master, and two more, could engage in dispatching the Work; and the Rigour of the Season was so extreme, that they could rarely attend it above four Hours in a Day, and sometimes do nothing at all.

They had now been upwards of a Week without any kind of Sustenance, except the Cheese abovemention'd, and the Bones of three Pieces of Beef, render'd eatable by Pounding on the Rock, whose Flesh the Fish and Salt-water had almost intirely consum'd; when, at several Leagues distance, they saw three Boats under sail, to their great Rejoicing in Hopes of Deliverance: All crept out of the Tent, and hollow'd as loud as possible, making every imaginable Signal, but all in vain, for they neither heard, or discover'd them. Notwithstanding, from hence they drew Matter of Encouragement; inferring, that as the Wind was N.E. at the Time they were cast away, so Part of the Wreck being driven on the opposite Shore, might discover their Distress, and induce these Vessels from the S.W. to come out in quest of them, which they might continue to do, as oft as fair Weather presented. Their earnest Desire of Deliverance gull'd them into a Belief of this agreeable Delusion; and, tho' the Event discover'd its Fal-

B

lacy,

lacy, yet it serv'd, for a while, to amuse a Despair, that vastly aggravated their lamentable Condition.

When they had almost finish'd their Boat, one Day, at low Water, they found the Carpenter's Ax cast up-on the Rock by the Sea, and with it completed the Work. It was then consulted, who should adventure in her to get on Shore. The Master, offering to be one, was universally approv'd of; as being, thro' Health and Strength, best able to go through all Extremities; the Mate, the Master's Brother, and four others agreed to accompany him; and then recommending the Enterprize to the Guidance of Divine Providence, all that were capable, assisting with their joint Endeavours, haul'd their ill-made, patch'd up Boat, with infinite Difficulty, to the Water-side: This was on, or about, the 21st of *December*, being a fine Day, and the Water smoother than usual, yet the Surf running high, oblig'd them to wade very deep to launch her, and as soon as the Master and one more were got in, the Swell of the Sea, in spite of all their Resistance, heav'd the Boat along Shore, and overset her upon them, whereby she was stav'd to pieces, and they narrowly escap'd Drowning; with her were also lost both Ax and Hammer, Instruments that might have been of singular Use to assist them in their last Expedient of Building a Raft. This Disappointment immeniely heighten'd their Afflictions, by intirely ruining all future Prospect and Projects of Deliverance; and yet that very Afternoon, they had signal Reason to adore the Infinite Goodness of God, graciously ordaining this Event for their Safety; for the Wind springing up, blew a Storm, and had they been at Sea in that paltry Resemblance of a Boat, they must, humanly speaking, have unavoidably gone to the Bottom, whilst those left behind, through Inability to provide for themselves, would have run an extreme Risque of sharing in a yet more deplorable Fate.

And now again return'd with redoubled Impetuosity; all the Fears and Despair that had been a while suspended, during the mighty Expectations they had form'd from their Boat; and, in Truth, they were reduced to the most melancholick and miserable Circumstances. No Fire, and the Weather extreme Cold; their Hands and Feet

Feet frozen to a Degree of Mortification; several with large deep Ulcers, very offensive to the Smell, without any Plaister, save a Linnen-rag to wrap them in. The small Stock of Cheese spent, and nothing left to support their perishing Bodies, except Kelp, a Rockweed growing under Water, and Muscles so difficult to get, as not to allow, at most, above three a Day for each Man; in the mean Time, it became the Master's unavoidable Province, to cleanse and dress their Wounds, and procure these sorry Viands for their Sustenance; scarce a Man besides being in a Condition so much as to help himself; and, to all this, add but a too well grounded Apprehension of inevitably Perishing in the next Spring-tide, if accompanied with high Winds, the Sea, at such a Crisis, overflowing the Rock. This was their State, pinch'd with Cold and Hunger, Groaning under the Extremity of Weakness and Pain, with Torture and Horror of Conscience, under a Foresight of a certain, painful, but dubious, whether sudden, or lingering, Death, without any, even, remote View of Deliverance; so that the Sufferers themselves, at any Distance of Time, cannot possibly revive in their Minds, an adequate Idea of this Misery.

As it pleas'd God to indulge the Master in a greater Share of Health and Strength of Body, and likewise a proportionate Vigour of Mind; so he continually endeavour'd to instill into the Hearts of the dispirited People a Reliance on that Almighty Being, who is not confin'd to particular Means, nor always acts according to Human Probabilities. At the Time of quitting the Wreck, nothing but immediate Death was in View; but after their escape to the Rock, he grew more Sanguine, and scarce ever was without a secret Persuasion of Deliverance. This buoy'd up his Spirits, and enabled him, amidst so many Discouragements, to provide Rockweed and Muscles, to attend the Sick and Diseas'd; and, in many laborious Instances, pursue the Good of every Individual. But his frequent Exhortations to wait with Patience the appointed Time of Divine Salvation avail'd nothing, since he could not possibly assign any particular Medium of Rescue, that probably might take Place in so short a Space of Time,

as they had a Prospect of continuing their Lives in their present Indigence of all Things; and, indeed, when Reason only presided, he was oblig'd to give up the Point in Dispute, and pronounc'd them arriv'd at the highest degree of Calamity.

In this Conflict of Afflictions, as a dawning of Hope to alleviate their Distress, it pleas'd God that the Mate should strike down a Sea-gull, which he brought with Joy; and the Master equally dividing, though raw, and scarce every Man a Mouthful, yet was gladly receiv'd, and eaten with great Thankfulness.

And now, as the last Resource of Hope, they began to resolve upon composing a Raft, capable of bearing two Men; a Project all along mightily urged by a *Swede*, a stout, brave Fellow, that had unhappily lost the Use of both his Feet by the Frost since he came upon the Rock; and here again open'd a new Scene of Labour and Difficulty, to build this without Tools, and, almost, without Hands; however, at length, after abundance of Toil in clearing the Fore-yard from Junk, they split it in the midst, and constituting the two Parts for Side-pieces, twelve Foot long, interfix'd Spars, cover'd with the lightest Plank, four Foot broad, first Spiking, and then Seizing them firm; a short Mast was also fix'd, with a Sail made of two Hammocks driven on Shore, a Paddle was likewise provided for each Man, and a spare one made fast to the Raft in Case of Necessity. During the 5 or 6 Day's Time, wherein this Work was completing, the *Swede* frequently importun'd the Master to accompany him in the Attempt; yet giving him to understand, that if he refus'd, another was ready to embrace the Offer. The Master, deliberately weighing the Difficulties of the Adventure, judg'd them, rationally speaking, unsurmountable; considering, that Persons already so much reduc'd, must, in so severe a Season, set up to the Waist in Water 10 or 12 Hours at least, with the utmost Favour of Wind, Tide and Weather, and therefore resolv'd to decline it; but, out of Prudence, conceal'd his Reason and Resolutions, till Opportunity presented to put the Design in execution.

At this Time they saw a Sail coming out of *Piscataqua* River, about 7 Leagues to the *Westward*, to whom they endeavour'd to manifest themselves by all possible Devices; but the Wind being N. W. and the Ship standing to the *Eastward*, was presently out of Sight, to a Renewal of their Mortification,

The next being a moderate Day, and a small Breeze of Wind in the Afternoon sitting right on Shore, and the Raft now intirely finish'd, the *Swede*, and his Companion, that desir'd to go upon the Master's Refusal, were very solicitous to have the Raft launch'd, in order to pursue their Enterprize; the Mate, on the contrary, as strenuously opposing it, in regard to its being so late as two in the Afternoon; but they replying, it was full Moon, and light Nights; and redoubling their Entreaties, extorted the Master's Consent. First, then, with earnest Prayers committing them and their Design to the Divine Blessings, afterwards they launch'd the Raft, and both of them being placed upon it, the Swell of the Sea going high, maugre all their Endeavours, overset the Raft, as heretofore the Boat, and away went the Mast and Sail; the *Swede*, being an excellent Swimmer, soon recover'd the Shore, and little regarded it; but the other, unskill'd in that Art, continued a while under Water, and upon his Appearance being dragg'd to Land by the Master, was too much discouraged to make a second Essay. The Master then desir'd the *Swede* to assist in getting the Raft out of the Water, in Order to wait a more favourable Opportunity; but the *Swede*, persisting in his Resolution, tho' unable to stand upon his Feet, and, as he was kneeling on the Rock, caught hold on the Master's Hand, and, with much Vehemency, beseeching him to accompany him, said, I am sure I must die; however, I have great Hopes of being the Means of preserving your Life, and the rest of the Peoples; if you will not go with me, I beg your Assistance to turn the Raft, and help me upon it, for I am resolutely bent to venture, even, tho' by myself alone. The Master us'd farther Dissuatives, representing the Impossibility of reaching the main Land in twice the Time they might have done before they were disarm'd of their Mast and Sail; but the *Swede* remain'd inflexible,

inflexible, affirming, with Imprecation, I had rather perish in the Sea, than continue one Day more in this miserable Condition. By this Time another, animated by his Example, offering to go with him, the Master consented, and giving them some Money, that accidentally was in his Pocket, fix'd them on the Raft, and help'd to launch them off from the Rock, committing them to the Mercy of the Seas, under the Care of Divine Providence. Their last Words at parting were very Moving, and deliver'd in a Pathetic Accent: Pray Sir oblige all the People to join in Prayers for us as long as you can see us. All to a Man crept out of the Tent at this doleful Separation, and perform'd their Request with much Devotion. About Sun-set they judg'd them half Way to Land, and hop'd they might gain the Shore by two in the Morning; but in the Night the Wind blew very hard, and two Days after the Raft was found on Shore, about a Mile distant from the other Man, having his Paddle still fast to his Wrist, but so much worn, as shew'd he had labour'd hard, but the bold *Swede* was never seen more.

The Master had appointed these Adventurers to procure a Fire to be made in the Woods, on a certain Hill, within Ken of this desolate Island, as a Signal of their getting alive on Shore, and the other expeditious Relief, and two Days after a Smoke arising from that Quarter, and daily continuing, tho' upon a different Occasion, was yet, with Reason, interpreted by them as a Token of speedy Deliverance. This Flush of Hope, under God, subserv'd for a Time to support them, accounting for the Delay by the Difficulty of procuring a Vessel, and the Freezing up of the Rivers, common in such an Inclemency of this Season of the Year; but, at last, Famine, deaf to all Remonstrances, began a new to excite Impatience.

The Spring Tide, so justly dreaded, was now, God be thanked, safely over; however, one Inconvenience follow'd; the Waters, not falling so low as before, depriv'd 'em, in a good Measure, of the Advantage of taking Muscles, a principal Branch of their daily Aliment. This irksome Employment, others refusing, fell to the Master's Lot, who ran a great Hazard of losing both Hands and Arms

Arms by so frequently exposing them in the cold Water, altho', when taken, his Stomach rejected them, as offensive thro' excessive Coldness, preferring Rockweed, of much easier Digestion, yet, either the Quality of the Herb, or the Effects of Hunger, render'd the Eaters very Costive. At their first Arrival they saw, and even stumbled upon, several Seals on the Rock; the Master thence inferring, it was their nightly Harbour, took frequent Walks at Midnight in View of intercepting them, but they had intirely forsaken the Island. Multitudes of Sea-Fowl also appear'd, but observing Men daily there, refus'd to lodge on the Rock.

Their Necessities, in Regard to fresh Water, were indifferently well supplied all the Time by Rain, and melted Snow, lodging in the Concavities of the highest Part of the Rock, though the Taste was something brackish by the Spry of the Sea, at Spring-tides, breaking over it, tho' God, of his infinite Mercy, by restraining the high Winds, prevented a total Inundation. During the Frost they preferr'd the eating of Ice, which is fresh, though congeal'd from Salt-water; this the Master brought in great Lumps to the Side of the Tent, and every Man took what he pleas'd. They drank their Water out of a Powder-horn, and applied another to the Use of the diseased in the Tent.

At this Time the Master set the Infirm, and otherwise useless Hands, to open Junk, and with the Rope Yarn, drawn from thence, thatch'd the Tent, according to the best of his Skill in that Science; this serv'd to turn off 2 or 3 Hours Rain, and skreen them from the Asperities of the cold cutting Winds. Of this Oakum likewise the Master made Swathing Bands, in which he swath'd up himself at Night, when he threw off his wet Cloaths, and obliging his Boy, swath'd in the same Manner, to lie upon him; this Device contributed much to the Conservation of his Health.

About the latter End of *December*, the Carpenter, a fat Man, naturally of a dull, heavy, phlegmatic Constitution, and aged about 47; always very ill from his first coming on Shore, and had since lost the Use of his Feet, now, in particular, complain'd of an excessive Pain in his Back, and stiffness in his Neck; and, moreover,

over, was almost suffocated with an Inundation of Phlegm. He soon grew Speechless, tho' retaining his Senses, and drawing near to his End, in all Apprehension, they pray'd over him; and in all Things, to the Best of their Power, were serviceable to him in his last Moments. Dying that Night, his Body remain'd in the Tent 'till the Morning, when the Master, as usual, going out in quest of Provisions, order'd the People to remove the Corps to some distance. Finding Part of a green Hide, fasten'd to a Piece of the Main yard, newly thrown up by the Sea; he first endeavour'd to eat it, but his Teeth made no Impression; at Noon returning, the Men importuned him to bring it into the Tent, and mincing it small, it was soon swallow'd down with a voracious Appetite. The Master, then observing the Carcass not carried off, began to expostulate warmly, demanding the Reason of their Disobedience: They excus'd themselves on the Score of Inability; he, imputing this to their Want of Spirit and Resolution, already the Cause of much Chagrin and Fatigue to him, and Mischief to themselves; he gave them a Rope, bidding them make it Fast to the Corps, and his Spirits being still in a Ferment, he essay'd to draw it out himself, but was soon convinc'd of the Decay of his Strength, by not being able to stir it: Another however assisting, the dead Body, at length, was haul'd a few Paces from the Tent. The Master, afterwards, returning into the Tent, with his Powers enervated by this violent Exertion of himself, and his Mind oppressed with the most acute Sense of the various Miseries they were involv'd in, occasionally reinforced by the present melancholic Instance, was ready to expire with Faintness and Anguish; and placing himself so as to receive some Refreshment by Sleep, he observ'd an unusual Air of Intentness in the Countenances of all the People, when, after some Pause, Mr. *Whitworth*, a young Gentleman, his Mother's darling Son, delicately educated, amidst so great an Affluence, as to despise common Food, as he then, with Remorse of Conscience, acknowledg'd, began, in the Name of the Assembly, to court the Master's Concurrence in converting the Humane Carcase into the Matter of their Nourishment; and

and was immediately seconded by a great Majority, three only opposing, on account of their esteeming it a heinous Sin. This Affair had been thus consulted, and concluded upon in the Master's Absence, and the present Method concerted of making it known by a Gentleman reputed to be much in his Favour. The Master remain'd in his former Posture, observing an invincible Silence, whilst they were urging their Desires with irresistible Vehemence, for nothing that ever beset him from the Day of his Birth, no nor the Dread and Distress of his Soul upon quitting the Wreck, when he did not expect to live a Minute, was so amazingly Shocking at this unexpected Proposal; but, after a short Interval, resuming his Reason, and concealing his Infirmary for Decency Sake, he maturely weighing all Circumstances, pronounc'd in Favour of the Majority, arguing the Improbability of its being a Sin to eat Humane Flesh in a Case of such Necessity, provided they were no ways accessary to the taking away of Life. The Master then acquiescing, on Condition of throwing into the Sea the Skin, and all Parts discovering it to be Humane; and receiving from Time to Time their respective Portions, according to his Prescription, the People appear'd in a Transport of Joy; but all to a Man excused themselves from engaging in so odious a Work; alledging their Inability of abiding so long in the Cold, and therefore most humbly implor'd the Continuance of his good Offices, even in this very disagreeable Instance. The Master took this extremely ill, and refus'd a good while to comply; but, at last, their incessant Prayers and Tears prevail'd, and by close of the Day, with another's Assistance, he had dispatch'd this very nauseous and difficult Task. A few thin Slices, wash'd in Salt-water, were brought into the Tent, and given to every one, with a good Quantity of Rockweed to supply the Place of Bread. The first Piece the Master eat, was Part of the Grissels that compose the Breast, having the Flesh scrap'd clean off, for his Stomach, as yet, abominated the loathsome Diet, though his importunate Appetite had, more than once, led him to survey with a longing Eye the Extremities of his fore Fingers, and a Day or two before compell'd him to taste his own

Excrements. The Mate, and the two other Opposers, refus'd to partake of the Flesh that Night, but were the first next Morning to beg an equal Share in the common Allowance. The Master, to prevent Dispute, distributed it by Lot, with the utmost Impartiality; and to take off any Aversion, enjoin'd them to call it Beef; tho' this last Precaution was needless, since they devour'd it in a rapacious Manner, and crav'd greater Quantities than consist'd with Health, and the Extent of their small Stock; and, in a few Days, Lame and Infirm as they were, he found himself oblig'd to remove the Pieces and Quarters to a craggy Eminency of difficult Access, as likewise to hold a stricter Hand, and exercise all the Authority he had taken at their Request, over them, which their present Impotence, and his comparative Strength, empower'd him to maintain; for on a sudden, he perceiv'd an Alteration in their Dispositions, infinitely to the worse, from a quiet, peaceable, affectionate Temper, a resign'd, submissive, religious Frame of Mind; the Majority grew fierce, brutish, barbarous, Impatient in their Afflictions, and Refractory to Command, using ill Language, Oaths and Imprecations, so that the Master almost repented he had not turn'd the dead Carcass adrift in the Sea, instead of reserving it for Food, since attended with such detestable Effects; however, this Deportment convinc'd him of the absolute Necessity of keeping a strict Watch over the Remainder of the Body, since he had Reason to apprehend future Want would drive them to sacrifice one another's Lives to their inexorable Hunger, and the Prolongation of their Miseries a few Days would infallibly have terminated in this dreadful Event. This Nutrient had also an ill Effect upon their Ulcers and Sores, endangering a Mortification more than ever; and herein the Master incurr'd as great a Risque as any, having the Ends of his Fingers torn, and his Nails dislocated, on his first Recovering the Rock, and they had ever since been constantly employ'd in Building the Tent, Boat, and Raft, and a daily Acquisition of Victuals, &c. without either Ease or Medicine to supple and heal them. To remedy this Inconvenience, the Master tried an Experiment of his own Conception, that sufficiently answer'd

swer'd the Intention, viz. He applied Plaisterwise to the distemper'd Part, first cleansed and wash'd in Salt-water, the Fat taken off from the Kidneys of the Deceased, reduc'd to a proper Consistence, by working it with a Stone on a smooth Place of the Rock; and this prov'd a cooling, mollifying Medicament, giving much Ease to the Patient, and, peradventure, from something of this Kind, improved by the Hands of the Learned, may be prepar'd an excellent Digestive.

The Close of the old Year left them in a most forlorn Condition; the Master's Brother attack'd with Convulsive Fits, and frozen in several Fingers; Mr. *Whitworth*, his Friend, in both his Feet, so that he oft express'd himself willing to compound for Life with the Loss of a Limb, the Master, through Sympathy with them, and Concern at the ill Success of every Enterprize for Deliverance, together with the daily Care and Fatigue unavoidably revolving upon him, became diminish'd in his Strength, and dissipated in the Faith and Resolution of his Mind; the rest of the People, half frozen, more than half famish'd, distemper'd, ulcerous, despairing, unable to help themselves; yet Murmuring, Prophane, and Blasphemous. In a Word, labouring under a Complication of the greatest Evils, Cold, Diseases, Famine, Prospect of Death, and Dread of Damnation.

But the Almighty, whose Mercies endure for ever, was graciously pleas'd to extend his undeserv'd Favour, for on the 2d of *January*, in the Morning, as the Master was creeping out of the Tent, he saw a Shallop half Way from Shore, standing directly towards the Rock, under a brisk Gale of Wind, and immediately crying out, a Sail, a Sail, unable to utter more thro' an Ecstasy of Joy; not a Soul amongst them, how Weak and Infirm soever, but instantly thrust out his Head to see so desirable a Sight, and to express the Raptures diffus'd throughout the whole Company, upon the Prospect of so sudden and unexpected a Deliverance, outstrips the Powers of Tongue and Mind; 'twas Life from the Dead. The Master kept walking on the Rock to direct their Good and Welcome Friends to the properest Anchorage; but they not understanding his Signs, let go in a very indifferent Place, about 100 Yards S. W. off the Island, the Swell of the Sea not permitting a nearer

nearer Approach, their Anchor coming Home, they were obliged to weigh, and stand off 'till Noon, in Expectation of smoother Weather on the Flood; in the mean Time the weak and disorder'd Minds of the poor Creatures on the Rock were strangely hurry'd with fluctuating Passions; thro' Fears of Miscarriage, and Hopes of Deliverance.

At Flood the Vessel coming nigh, cast Anchor by the Master's Directions in a commodious Place, within Call of the Island; where the Master gave them an Account of their Miseries in every Respect, except the Want of Provisions; concealing this, least an Apprehension of being constrain'd to abide on the Rock, thro' any Extremity of Weather should deter them from coming on Shore to their Assistance: observing also, they were unprovided of a proper Boat to carry them off, he earnestly requested them to furnish him with Fire, if they could not possibly accomplish their immediate Deliverance. Hoisting out a small Canoe, one Man came off, and gaining the Rock with abundance of Difficulty, the Master assisted to haul the Boat on Shore, and perceiving no Eatables therein, enquir'd of the Man, If he could help him to Fire? He reply'd in the Affirmative, after some Hesitation, occasion'd by his Astonishment at the Master's thin and meagre Aspect. Several other Questions being alternately resolv'd, as, What Day of the Week it was? &c. and, in particular, a Relation made of the Manner of finding the Raft and dead Corps, which mov'd the Government to send them out on the present Design; as they were passing on towards the Tent, the Man casting his Eyes on the Remains of the Flesh, expos'd to the Frost on the Summit of the Rock, express'd his Satisfaction at their not being destitute of Provisions; and the Master acquiesced in the Justice of his Sentiments, without unravelling the Mystery. Arriving at the Tent, he was perfectly affrighted at the ghastly Figure of so many dismal Objects, with long Beards, nothing but Skin and Bone; wild staring Eyes, and Countenances, fierce, barbarous, unwash'd, and infected with Humane Gore. After kindling a Fire, with much Labour, the Master accompany'd the Man to his Boat, intending to go on Board with him, and afterwards send
for

for the Rest, one or two at a Time, and carry them all off that Night; both getting in, the Sea drove the Canoe with such Force against the Rock, as overset her in the Water, whereby the Master, so greatly reduced in his Strength, was a long while unable to recover himself, and narrowly escap'd Drowning. The good Man, making a second Attempt alone, recover'd the Shallop with Difficulty; having solemnly assur'd them at parting, of coming again the next Day with better Accommodations, if Weather permitted.

Now again, as an Allay to their newly conceiv'd Joy, they beheld their worthy Friends in the Shallop, standing away for the Shore without them; but the infinitely Wise and Good God, whose sole Prerogative it is to appoint the Time, as well as Means, of Man's Deliverance, by frustrating the present Appearance, effectually secur'd the Accomplishment of their Preservation, for the Wind coming about to S. E. blew very hard, and the Night proving exceeding Dark, the Vessel was stranded in returning, and the Men, with much Hazard, escap'd to the Main Land; but had these helpless Wretches been there, they must have perish'd in all probability. Immediately upon their Landing, an Express was sent to *Portsmouth*, on *Piscataqua* River, and the good People there laid hold on the first fair Weather to hasten to their Relief. In the mean Time, tho' they had Reason to believe their Condition known, and therefore to expect a speedy Assistance; yet their Flesh being near spent, the next Day proving Stormy, and the Uncertainty of such bad Weather's Continuance, all serv'd to revive their Griefs, and exercise their Patience; however, the Misery of their Circumstances was much alleviated by the Advantage of Fire to keep them warm, and broil their Meat, from thence assuming a much more Savoury Relish.

The Fire was made in the middle of the Tent, and hemm'd in with Stones to prevent its Excursion; the Fewel-Ropes cut into short Lengths, and brought up to the Tent by the Master. At the first making of the Fire, no Vent being contriv'd for the Smoke, the People were almost suffocated, several Fainting away, and others grew extreme Sick; but an opening being made in the

Top

Top of the Tent, the ill Effect ceased. A constant Watch of two at a Time, continually attended the Fire ; and were stately relieved every two Hours, tho' subject to some Inequality, being reckon'd by Computation.

The Men now urg'd the Master, to enlarge their Allowance of Flesh ; and he in part comply'd. but not to their Satisfaction : in the Night, as he lay amongst the People, asleep to all appearance, he overheard the Two that had the Watch, whispering with something of an earnest Accent ; and soon after perceiv'd One creep out of the Tent, and e're long returning with a Part of their small Stock, tho' the Flesh lay at a considerable Distance ; the Rock was rough and uneven, and this very Fellow for some Time past, especially when any thing was commanded to be done, had no other way of moving but on his Hands and Knees ; as they were busie in broiling their Purchase, the Master suddenly starting up, seiz'd it, and forthwith acquainting the whole Company, it was propos'd to inflict an exemplary Punishment, but as the Case then stood, they came off with a severe Réprimand.

And now when they came to low an Ebb in the Article of Provisions, that the whole Remainder of the Flesh was allotted for the next Repast ; as it pleas'd God, the Wind abated in the Night of the 3d of *January*, and early on the 4th in the Morning, whilst at their Devotions, they were agreeably surpriz'd at the Report of a Musquet, and looking out, saw a Shallop near the Rock. They came to an Anchor, and having a good Canoe, the Master's much esteem'd Friends, *William Long* of *Old-England*, and *Jeshro Furber* of *New-England*, both Masters of Ships, with three others, soon came on Shore, the Master standing at the Waterside to receive and welcome them to that desolate Island. After first Salutations past, and learning the summary State of their Case, having look'd about as far as Curiosity prompted, they first took the Master on board of the Shallop, and then, being very brisk, strong Men, brought the rest, two or three at a time, most of them on their Backs, from the Tent to the Canoe, tho' none of them were free from Vermin ; and in two Hours time they were all on board to their Worthy Friends Satisfaction, and their own inexpressible Joy.

The

The first Sustainance they received, was a bit of Bread and a dram of Rum each, and soon after a Mess of Water-Gruel every one, prepar'd in sufficient Quantity by a charitable Gentlewoman, whose Husband own'd the Shallop, and this was excellently accommodated to their Condition, and prov'd of singular Benefit; for the Wind being contrary, and blowing a Gale, they were obliged to carry much Sail, which rendred the poor hunger-starved Wretches extremely Sea-sick; and the Water-Gruel promoting a Facilitie in vomiting, serv'd to cleanse their Stomachs, after which they grew excessively hungry and Ravenous.

In the Close of the Evening they got within the Mouth of *Piscataqua* River; and the Master hir'd a Canoe to carry Mr. *Whitworth* and himself to their Lodgings at Mr. *Farber's* with greater Expedition. By eight a-Clock they landed, and the Master being shew'd the House, ran directly in, to the terrible Affrightment of the Gentlewoman and her Children, who took the first Opportunity of making a fair Escape, and left all to his Discretion; and he, tho' emaciated to a Skeleton, yet being in perfect Health, was unmercifully hungry, and therefore taking occasion to rumage the Pot on the Fire, found the Contents to be Beef and Turnips, resolving thereupon to stand Cook for once; before the Men that row'd them up arriv'd with Mr. *Whitworth*, whom they were obliged to carry, he had taken up the Turnips and spread them on the Table to render them Mouth-meat, and some small Portion he had already secured in his Belly; but the People unacceptably intervening, restrain'd him from eating any more at that time. The Mistress of the Family, learning who they were, return'd to the House, and the Master, with his Friend, was put into a Room apart. Soon after, they were visited by Mr. *Packer*, Practitioner in Physick and Surgery, by especial Order of the Government, whose Administrators, by an Excess of Generosity, had sent out, that Day, two other Vessels to their Assistance in case of Necessity; and now, in farther Prosecution of the same Pious and Charitable Care, Lodgings, Food, and Nurses were provided for the People, during their Infirmary, and Cloaths, Linnen and Woollen, given them upon their Recovery, all at the Publick

Publick Expence : and had not their unworthy, intemperate Behaviour, plainly evinc'd them to be guilty of Ingratitude towards God and Disregard to Man, they were upon the Point of receiving yet farther Instances of their Charity and Christian Compassion. The Gentlemen, most forward in promoting this generous Benevolence towards the Distress'd, were, the ever to be Respected *John Plaised* and *John Wentworth*, Esqrs; to their own considerable private Charge, tho' the Master and Mr. *Whitworth*, having sufficient Credit, bore their own Expences.

A limited Diet and requisite Purges being Administred, in process of Time all recover'd, tho' every one, excepting the Master, lost the Use of Fingers or Toes, or some other Part of his Body ; and in particular, the Master's Boy suffer'd the Loss of a Foot. At the first Publication of this Narrative, the Master, the Mate, and Mr. *Whitworth*, were all in *England* ; but, in a Course of fifteen Years since, the Master alone survives of all that he particularly knew.

And now, after such an Interval of Time, to do Justice to the Names and Memories of those beneficent Gentlemen, whose admir'd Humanity on this Occasion, deserves Applause and Imitation throughout succeeding Ages ; and in order to perpetuate the Remembrance of the Gracious Proceedings of Divine Providence in its admirable Conduct towards them, the Master is making a Provision to have the Annual Commemoration of their Wonderful Deliverance celebrated in *New-England*, as nearest adjoining to the Principal Scene of Action ; and that in such a Manner, as may, with the Divine Blessing, prove of Service to reclaim some of the unthinking Part of his own Fraternity.

20 JY 63

F I N I S.

